

Message Text

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54

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 NIC-01 IO-14 SCA-01

DPW-01 ACDA-19 DRC-01 INRE-00 /136 W

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O R 011313Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1711

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STOCKHOLM 1395

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, VN, VS, SW

SUBJECT: STOCKHOLM VIETNAM CONFERENCE

REF: (A) STOCKHOLM 1386

SUMMARY: STOCKHOLM VIETNAM CONFERENCE WENT AS SCHEDULED EXCEPT FOR ANTI-CONFERENCE DEMONSTRATION OUTSIDE OF HALL AT OPENING FIRST SESSION. CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS AS EXPECTED CONDEMNED USG AND GVN FOR FAILING IMPLEMENT PARIS AGREEMENTS. GOS WAS NOTABLE FOR LOW PROFILE AND STRAIGHTFORWARD REFUSAL TO RECOGNIZE PRG ON "INTERNATIONAL LAW GROUNDS." PALME STAYED OUT OF TOWN ALL WEEKEND AND DID NOT MEET WITH DELEGATES, WHO COMPLAINED ABOUT LACK OF GOS SUPPORT. NEWS COVERAGE WAS VERY LIGHT. ON WHOLE THIS MINI-AFFAIR MUST HAVE BEEN A GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT TO ITS ORGANIZERS.
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END SUMMARY.

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE ON INDOCHINA OPENED FRIDAY, MARCH 29, CLAIMING ATTENDANCE OF 267 DELEGATES FROM 60 COUNTRIES REPRESENTING 22 INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. REPORTERS ESTIMATED ACTUAL ATTENDANCE SATURDAY AT ABOUT 200. ON ARRIVING FOR FIRST SESSION DELEGATES HAD TO PASS BETWEEN LINES OF PLACARD-BEARING DEMONSTRATORS, WITH TEXT SUCH AS "VIET CONG OUT OF SWEDEN" AND "CONDEMN COMMUNISTS' 36,000 VIOLATIONS OF PARIS AGREEMENT." DEMONSTRATION, NOMINALLY ORGANIZED BY "ACTION COMMITTEE FOR A FREE SOUTH VIETNAM" AND "THE SWEDISH COMMITTEE FOR PEACE IN VIETNAM" WAS ORDERLY AND NO CONFRONTATIONS OCCURRED.

2. CONFERENCE PROCEEDED AS PER AGENDA (COPY POUCHED). MAJOR EVENTS WERE: OPENING SPEECH BY MINISTER OF EDUCATION BERTIL ZACHRISSON (REFTEL A), PRESENTATIONS BY SWEDISH GROUPS VISITING NORTH VIETNAM RECENTLY AND FRATERNAL GREETINGS FROM VARIOUS DELEGATIONS, WITH STRONG REPRESENTATION FROM AFRICA AND ASIA.

3. CONFERENCE HAD SUBSTANTIAL AMCIT PARTICIPATION, INCLUDING SPEECHES BY RICHARD A. FALK, PROFESSOR INTERNATIONAL LAW AND PRACTICE AT PRINCETON UNIVERSITY, AND BY AMERICAN PROFESSOR OF HISTORY GABRIEL KOLKO, PRESENTLY TEACHING AT YORK UNIVERSITY AT TORONTO, CANADA (POUCHING COPIES). TWO FORMER AMERICAN POW'S IN NORTH VIETNAM APPEARED BEFORE A CONFERENCE COMMITTEE, ROBERT CHENOWETH, 26, STUDENT AT BERKELEY, AND FRED ELBERT, 26, STUDENT FROM NEW YORK. THEY TESTIFIED THEY HAD SEEN NO NLF OR DRV TORTURE OF AMERICAN PRISONERS.

4. FINAL RESOLUTION PASSED BY CONFERENCE MARCH 31 INTER ALIA DEMANDED THAT US STOP ARMS DELIVERIES TO GVN AND FULFILL COMMITMENT TO HELP REHABILITATION OF ALL VIETNAM. RESOLUTION ASSERTED THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR FIGHTING THAT STILL GOES ON, ONE YEAR AFTER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARMISTICE, RESTS WITH US AND SAIGON GOVERNMENTS. RESOLUTION DEMANDED GVN OBSERVE CEASE-FIRE, RELEASE POLITICAL PRISONERS AND GUARANTEE DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS. CONFERENCE RESOLVED TO CALL ON RED CROSS AND UN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO INVESTIGATE QUESTION OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN RVN.

5. RECOGNITION OF PRG WAS URGED BY PRG DELEGATION,

WITHOUT SUCCESS AS FAR AS SWEDEN WAS CONCERNED.
ZACHRISSON TOLD REPORTERS FRIDAY THAT "THERE ARE
REASONS FO INTERNATIONAL LAW FOR NOT RECOGNIZING
PRG AT THIS TIME". SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC MEMBER OF
SWEDISH RIKSDAG, ANITA GRADIN, ELECTED NEW PERMANENT
CHAIRMAN OF THE STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE, SAID AT CONFERENCE
END SHE WAS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT VIETNAM'S FUTURE AND
THOUGHT "SWEDEN TOGETHER WITH OTHER NORDIC COUNTRIES
WILL RECOGNIZE PRG WITHIN A YEAR."

6. PRESS COVERAGE OF CONFERENCE WAS LIGHT WITH ALL
STOCKHOLM PAPERS COVERING IT BRIEFLY ON INSIDE PAGES
OR NOT AT ALL. CONFERENCE MADE SWEDISH TV NEWS
PROGRAMS FRIDAY AND SUNDAY. CHANNEL TWO HAD FOUR-MINUTE SPOT
FRIDAY WHICH INCLUDED SHOT OF PRO-GVN DEMONSTRATORS.
BOTH NEWS PROGRAMS HAD CONFERENCE WRAP-UP SUNDAY IN
WHICH SECRETARY KISSINGER'S LETTER TO SENATOR KENNEDY
ON US RESPONSIBILITIES TO RVN WAS REPORTED.
END UNCLASSIFIED.

COMMENT: GOS PROFILE WITH RESPECT TO CONFERENCE WAS
VERY LOW. IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT PALME SCHEDULED
HUSTINGS TOUR WHICH KEPT HIM OUT OF TOWN - AND OUT
OF CONTACT WITH CONFERENCE DELEGATES - THROUGHOUT
WEEKEND. GRADIN'S STATEMENT AT CONFERENCE CLOSE
EXPRESSING CONFIDENCE PRG WOULD GET NORDIC RECOGNITION
WITHIN A YEAR WAS, OF COURSE, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT
PRG APPEAL FOR RECOGNITION WAS STONEWALLED. FOREIGN
JOURNALISTS PRESENT AT CONFERENCE DESCRIBED IT AS
RATHER DISPIRITED AFFAIR WITH DELEGATES COMPLAINING
ABOUT LACK OF GOS SUPPORT.
OLSEN

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